

St. Clair County Soil & Water Conservation District



ST. CLAIR COUNTY SWCD
3835 NE HWY 13
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January 2010

Annual Meeting

The St. Clair County SWCD will hold our Annual meeting on **March 19th** this year. Once again, it will be at the Osceola Assembly of God Church in Osceola.

We will have our usual activities planned, such as conservation farmer award, poster contest awards etc.

We do have a different type of program this year. We have scheduled Bob Cunningham, with the Missouri Department of Conservation for our entertainment. Bob has developed a very interesting presentation that describes and illustrates the history of timber harvesting in Missouri. Bob will share

his stories and photos that he has gathered from people who worked in the business for the enormous lumber companies that moved into the Ozarks to process the timber. Missouri was the leading edge of the frontier and it possessed the last great stand of timber before crossing the Great Plains. When the sawmills came, they attracted workers and their families who formed the basis of the Ozark culture. Once the timber was all cut, many of the sawmill owners ironically pushed for a conservation movement in Missouri. This is the story of the Ozarks that few people realize. We hope you will

enjoy learning more about this interesting part of our Missouri history.

We will have a delicious meal prepared by the church ladies and as usual, we will need everyone to be sure and let us know if they are planning to come so we can let the church know how many to prepare for.

Please RSVP back to the office before March 15th.

We look forward to seeing each of you there again this year, so please mark this on your calendar and plan to come and have a good meeting and nice evening with other landowners from our county.

Burn Workshop

Landowners who are considering burning warm or cool season grass fields this spring may want to attend our annual burn workshop. Burn workshops are presented by NRCS and Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) employees. At this workshop you will learn

the concepts and techniques of prescribed burning and made aware of possible hazards and other considerations encountered while burning. The burn workshop will be held at the Boy Scout Building in Lowry City March 12th. Starting at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided and if

weather permits, a demo burn will be conducted after lunch so bring appropriate clothes to participate. Please **call the SWCD office and RSVP** so we can plan how much food to prepare.

When done properly, burning is a very valuable conservation tool.

Dates to Remember

- FEBRUARY 15 — OFFICE CLOSED WASHINGTONS BIRTHDAY
- FEBRUARY 23— SPRING FORAGE CONFERENCE SPRINGFIELD MO
- MARCH 12—BURN WORKSHOP LOWRY CITY BOY SCOUT BLDG.
- MARCH 19 — SWCD ANNUAL MEETING
- MARCH 20— SWCD GRASSLAND WORKSHOP

In This Issue

ANNUAL MEETING	1
BURN WORKSHOP	1
COST-SHARE NEWS	2
SPRING FORAGE CONF	3
GRASSLAND WORKSHOOP	3
NRCS PROGRAM DEADLINE	3
OFFICE DIRECTORY	4

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Cost-Share Funds Remaining

Now may not seem the best time to be thinking about implementing cost-share practices on your farm due to bad weather and all, but actually this is the perfect time to plan the things that have been going through your mind to improve the erosion practices on your land. We currently still have funds available to landowners in our county to do this. We have had an increase in interest to complete some of our new practices that we have been trying to promote

to landowners for several months now. We have received a pretty significant increase in our cost-share allocation. We certainly want this money to be used in St. Clair County rather than returning it which would probably in turn, not allow us to receive as much for the next fiscal year. As we have mentioned in past newsletters, we have several new practices this year that gives landowners more flexibility in choosing what practice to implement on their farms.

What we need each of you to do is call us with your ideas and let us work with you to see if we can get you approved and get you finished before time runs out on this year's funds. Please call us and come in and visit with us to see what can be done to protect your natural resources.

Currently we have funding until June for the following practices:

AVAILABLE COST-SHARE PRACTICES

- ◆ PONDS
- ◆ TERRACE SYSTEMS
- ◆ SOD WATERWAYS
- ◆ PERMANENT VEGETATIVE COVER (ESTABLISHMENT, IMPROVEMENT AND CRITICAL AREA)
- ◆ PLANNED GRAZING SYSTEMS
- ◆ NO-TILL SYSTEMS
- ◆ DIVERSION
- ◆ WOODLAND PROTECTION

- DSL-1: Permanent Vegetative Establishment
- WQ10: Stream Protection
- DSL-2: Permanent Vegetative Cover Improvement
- N574: Spring Development
- DSL-4: Terrace Systems
- N351: Well Decommissioning
- DSL-44: Terrace Systems w/tile
- C100: Timber Harvest Plans
- DSL-11: Permanent Vegetative Cover Critical Area
- N655: Restoration of Skid Trails (Forest)
- DSP-2: Permanent Vegetative Cover Enhancement
- C650: Stream bank Stabilization
- DSP-3: Planned Grazing System (DSP3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4,3.5)
- N443: Irrigation System, Surface
- DWC-1: Water Impoundment Reservoir

Spring Forage Conference

The 26th annual Southwest Missouri Spring Forage Conference will be Tuesday, **Feb. 23rd, 2010** at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield. Each year this conference attracts an increasing number of people interested in learning more about management strategies for forages and livestock.

This year's keynote speaker will be Dave Pratt. He is a 5th generation

Californian, who grew up on a small farm and worked for cattle and sheep ranchers in northern California. He holds a BS and MS degree from the University of California and Washington State University. Dave wrote the Ranching For Profit School Self Study Course and began teaching the Ranching for Profit School in 1992. The conference will also feature several interesting

breakout sessions to choose from. Conference registration fee is \$25.00 before **Feb. 16th** or \$35.00 at the door. Lunch is provided. A registration form and more information is available at the website: <http://agebb.missouri.edu/sfc/2010/program.htm>, or call the Greene Co. SWCD at 417-831-5246 ext. 3. You can also contact the St. Clair Co. SWCD office.



Grassland Management Workshop

The SWCD has scheduled our 3rd workshop for **March 20th**. It will begin at 9:00 am and you should be there by 8:30 to get registered. Our speaker this year will be Walt Davis from southeastern Oklahoma. Walt grew up on ranches in Oklahoma and Texas working with cattle,

sheep and goats. He attended Texas A&M College where he completed a BS degree in animal husbandry. He practices a "lower input" and more sustainable program. This practice has resulted in an operation that is both more profitable and more stable. He has taught

numerous seminars on this philosophy. Come join us for a very interesting day of learning. Please call the SWCD and RSVP so we have a headcount for the provided lunch. It will be held at the Osceola Assembly of God Church in Osceola. It will be over at 3:00 p.m.

Deadline Approaching for NRCS Programs Sign-up

Please don't forget that if you are interested in applying for financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), or the Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) offered by NRCS, that the deadline is coming up **very** soon. The deadline that has been announced by Missouri State Conservationist, J.R. Flores in recent news releases is **January 29, 2010**. Yes, that is very quickly approaching. While producers

can apply for these programs anytime, NRCS has set January 29th as the cut off date to evaluate and rank applications for funding of these programs. In addition to its regular conservation programs, special funding pools are available for organic producers, producers affected by wildfires, and producers who will be converting expired Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land back into production. "Whether farmers are interested in improving irrigation efficiency, improv-

ing wildlife habitat, protecting water quality or reducing erosion, we have a program that can provide both technical and financial assistance for applicants," Flores said.

These practices produce numerous on-site and off-site benefits, including improved water quality, air quality, soil quality, wildlife habitat, and irrigation efficiency.

Interested agricultural producers are encouraged to contact the USDA Service Center immediately to apply before the deadline for these 2010 programs.

DISTRICT EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

10 FT. GREAT
PLAINS
NO TILL DRILL
(WARM SEASON
BOX)
\$7.00 PER ACRE
(\$8.50 OUT OF
COUNTY)

10 FT. GREAT
PLAINS
NO-TILL DRILL
\$7.00 PER ACRE
(\$8.50 OUT OF
COUNTY)

BIG BALE MULCHER
\$20.00 PER ACRE

BURN EQUIPMENT
\$25.00 PER DAY

Remember to visit the
SWCD website : <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/stclair/>

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